With this response, claims 1, 2, 5, 14, 24-28, 30, and 32 are amended, and claims 3, 4, 6, 15, 16, 29, and 31 are cancelled.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-32 under 35 U.S.C. 112 first paragraph stating, "there is no disclosure in the original claims of 'non-control print software' and 'non-control read software' ".

The Applicant disagrees. Nevertheless, the Applicant believes that the claims, at least as submitted herewith, are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112, and respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claim 1, as amended herewith, includes a signaling unit in order to clearly show that a signal indicative of a detected option is transmitted to the information processing apparatus outside of the first apparatus. Claims 24, 27 and 31 are amended similarly. The signaling unit corresponds to the controller 17 and is supported by page 9, lines 16-22. The operation of the signaling unit is originally described in claims 3 and 6 as an operation of the detection device. In contrast to the prior art, claim 1 states operation as a configuration independent of the detection device. Using the signaling unit, the first apparatus (printer 1) outputs a signal indicative of the detected option (either printer function or scanner function) to the external image processing apparatus (host computer 2).

Since the Examiner asserts in relation to claim 14 in the Office Action that the signaling unit ("output means" before amendment) for outputting a signal indicative of which of the software should be launched is disclosed in Kaneko (USP 6,134,030), in column 5, lines 54-67 (Fig. 4), we will discuss on claims 1 and 14 collectively.

Claims 1 and 14 disclose configurations for causing an appropriate software to be automatically launched in an information processing apparatus (corresponds to the host

computer 11 in Kaneko) arranged outside of the first apparatus (or simply "apparatus" in claim 14).

In column 5, lines 54-67 in Kaneko with reference to Figs. 3 and 4, it is described that a printer/scanner mode signal is inputted to the controller 5 of the main body of device (corresponds to the first apparatus of claim 1), and gate circuits 82 and 84 in the controller 5 are activated by the printer/scanner mode signal. Clearly, the transmission of the printer/scanner signal is completed within the main body of device.

Therefore, the signaling unit of claims 1 and 14 of the present application for automatically transmitting an option selection signal to the (external) information processing apparatus are not disclosed in Kaneko. Furthermore, since the activation of the gate circuits 82 and 84 in Kaneko is a closed operation within the main body of device, no idea of causing the external host computer 11 (corresponds to the information processing apparatus of the claimed invention) to automatically perform any special operation in response to the printer/scanner mode signal is found in Kaneko.

Thus, Kaneko does not disclose or suggest the signaling unit of claims 1 and 14.

Claims 27 and 32 are method and computer medium claims of claim 1, and the same argument should apply to claims 27 and 32.

Claim 24 describes the information processing apparatus which is connected to a first apparatus as described in claims 1 and 14. Since the main body of device in Kaneko does not output the printer/scanner mode signal to the host computer 11, the information processing apparatus of claim 24 which launches either print or read software in response to an option selection signal received from the first apparatus is not disclosed or suggested by Kaneko.

Sakurai discloses a printer which, when an optional device is attached to the printer, controls an output to a host computer 100 to perform initialization (column 5, lines 28-34). The output from the optional device does not cause the host computer 100 to selectively launch either print or read software. In the initialization, the host computer 100 requests the device ID of the printer (column 5, lines 34-36). Thus, it is apparent that the printer does not output the device ID when it detects the change of the option, different from the signaling unit of claims 1 and 14 of the present application, and outputs the device ID in response to the request from the host computer 100.

Thus, Sakurai fails to disclose the signaling unit of the claimed invention which automatically outputs an option selection signal. Accordingly, claims 1, 14, 27 and 31 are not taught or suggested by Sakurai.

The information processing apparatus of claim 24 conforms to the first apparatus as described in claims 1 and 14, and launches either print or read software in accordance with the option selection signal which is received from the first apparatus issued at the time of the change of options. In contrast, the host computer 100 of Sakurai starts initialization in response to the output issued by the printer at the time of attachment of an optional device to the printer. For at least this reason, the applicant believes that claim 24 is not disclosed by Sakurai, either.

As for Matsumoto, the Examiner noted in page 5 of the Office Action that Matsumoto discloses means for sending scan information to a host (column 3, line 56-65). Specifically, in column 3, line 61, it reads that the communication apparatus sends "scanner read data" to a host computer. It should be noted that the sent data is merely data read by a scanner. Further, the Examiner noted in page 5 of the Office Action that Matsumoto discloses means for executing scan or print application software based on a selected scan or print operation (column 12, lines 12-30 and column 16, lines 23-29). However, the Applicant respectfully disagrees. In column 12, lines 12-30, it merely discloses operation within a facsimile communication system which corresponds to the first apparatus of the claimed invention, and does not describe executing application software in a host computer. Further, described in column 16, lines 23-29 is the personal computer functioning as a facsimile apparatus (corresponds to the first apparatus of the present invention) when provided with programs. There is no mention about how the another client terminal (corresponds to the information processing apparatus of the claimed invention) on the LAN launches application.

Accordingly, the signaling unit of the claimed invention is not found in Matsumoto, and claims 1, 14, 24, 27 and 31 are neither taught nor suggested by Matsumoto.

For at least the reasons as set forth above, the Applicant believes that the claims are patentable over either one or any combination of the cited references.

IV. Dependent Claims

The Applicant does not believe it necessary at this time to further address the

rejections of the dependent claims as the Applicant believes that the foregoing places the independent claims in condition for allowance. The Applicant, however, reserves the right to address those rejections in the future should such a response be deemed necessary and appropriate.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to telephone the Applicant's counsel at the telephone number given below.

In the event any fees are necessitated by this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge our deposit account no. 13-4500, order no. 1232-4465.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

CLAIMS

1. (Four Times Amended) A composite system including a fast apparatus having convertible options to function as a printer and a reader, and an information processing apparatus to which [non-control] print software and [non-control] read software are installed, said system comprising:

a detection device [for detecting], provided in said first apparatus, adapted to detect the option, selected or installed, on the first apparatus;

a signaling unit, provided in said first apparatus, adapted to automatically transmit to the information processing apparatus an option selection signal indicative of the detected option when the option is changed; and

launching means [for] adapted to automatically [launching] launch either the print software or the read software installed in the information processing apparatus depending upon [the selected or installed option detected by said detection device] the option selection signal received from said signaling unit, and [for allowing] to allow displaying an image read by said reader when said detection device detects that said reader is selected or installed.

2. (Amended) The composite system according to claim 1, wherein, when said [detection device detects] option selection signal indicates that the selected or installed option is the reader function, said launching means launches the read software.

5. (Amended) The composite system according to claim 1, wherein, when said [detection device detects] option selection signal indicates that the selected or installed option is the printer function, said launching means launches the print software.

14. (Four Times Amended) An apparatus, having convertible options to function as a printer and a reader, which realizes a composite system in combination with an information processing apparatus to which [non-control] print software and [non-control] read software are installed, said apparatus comprising:

a detection device for detecting the option, selected or installed [, on the first apparatus]; and

[output means for outputting] a signaling unit adapted to automatically output to the information processing apparatus [a] an option selection signal indicative of which of said software should be launched when the detected option is changed and [for allowing] to allow displaying of an image read by said reader when said detection device detects that said reader is selected or installed.

24. (Four Times Amended) An information processing apparatus to which [non-control] print software and [non-control] read software are installed, which realizes a composite system in combination with a first apparatus, having convertible options to function as a printer and a reader, said apparatus comprising:

a receiving unit adapted to receive an option n selection signal indicative of the detected option automatically sent from the first apparatus when the option is changed; and

launching means [for] adapted to automatically [launching] launch either the print software or the read software installed in the information processing apparatus depending upon [the option selected or installed on said first apparatus] the received option selection

signal, and for allowing displaying an image read by said reader when said reader is selected or installed.

25. (Amended) The composite system according to claim 24, wherein, when the option selection signal indicates that the reader function is selected or installed, said launching means launches the read software.

26. (Amended) The composite system according to claim 24, wherein, when the option selection signal indicates that the printer function is selected or installed, said launching means launches the print software.

27. (Four Times Amended) A function execution method used in a composite system including a first apparatus having convertible options to function as a printer and a reader, and an information processing apparatus to which [non-control] print software and [non-control] read software are installed, said method characterized by comprising:

a detection step of detecting the option, selected or installed, on the first apparatus;

a signaling step automatically transmitting from the first apparatus to the information processing apparatus an option selection signal indicative of the detected option when the option is changed; and

a launching step of automatically launching either the print software or the read software installed in the information processing apparatus depending upon [the selected or

installed option detected at said detection step] the option selection signal, and allowing displaying of an image read by said reader when it is detected in said detection step that said reader is selected or installed.

28. (Amended) The method according to claim 27, wherein, when [it is detected at said detection step] the option selection signal indicates that the selected or installed option is the reader function, the read software is launched at said launching step.

30. (Amended) The method according to claim 27, wherein, when [it is detected at said detection step] the option selection signal indicates that the selected or installed option is the printer function, the print software is launched at said launching step.

32. (Four Times Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for a function execution method used in a composite system including a first apparatus having convertible options to function as a printer and a reader, and an information processing apparatus to which [non-control] print software and [non-control] read software are installed, said product including:

first computer readable program code means for detecting the option, selected or installed, on the first apparatus;

second computer readable program code means for automatically transmitting from the first apparatus to the information processing apparatus an option selection signal indicative of the detected option when the option is changed; and

[second] third computer readable program code means for automatically launching either the print software or the read software installed in the information processing apparatus depending upon [the selected or installed option detected] the option selection signal and allowing displaying of an image read by said reader when said reader is selected or installed.